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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,185	06/05/2007	Philippe Daudin	003D.0102.U1(US)	9026
29683 7590 04/07/2008 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212				
EXAMINER TA, THO DAC				
ART UNIT 2833		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 04/07/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/583,185

Applicant(s)

DAUDIN ET AL.

Examiner

Tho D. Ta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by May et al. (6,422,882).

In regard to claim 1, Mat et al. discloses a connector housing comprising at least one contact-holder module 12, a frame 18 for receiving this module 12 and a stirrup 1, for purposes of coupling with a complementary connector 14, that can be maneuvered between a decoupling position and a coupling position for housing and complementary connector, characterized in that stirrup has means 3 for holding module 12 in a position for locking module 12 in frame 18.

In regard to claim 2, Mat et al. discloses means 3 for holding the module 12 are arranged so that they are active when the stirrup 1 is in position for coupling housing and complementary connector 14 and inactive when the stirrup 1 is in the decoupling position.

In regard to claim 3, Mat et al. discloses the module 12 and frame 18 have first complementary latching means 13, 2 for holding the module 12 in locking position in the frame 18.

In regard to claim 8, Mat et al. discloses the module 12 and stirrup 1 comprise complementary means 5, 7, 9 for preventing a maneuvering of the stirrup 1 when the module 12 is not in locking position.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 7, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohnuki (6,652,298).

In regard to claim 1, Ohnuki discloses a connector housing comprising at least one contact-holder module 8, a frame 6 for receiving this module 8 and a stirrup 9, for purposes of coupling with a complementary connector 5, that can be maneuvered between a decoupling position and a coupling position for housing and complementary connector, characterized in that stirrup 9 has means 33, 34 for holding module 8 in a

position for locking module 8 in frame 6 (column 10, lines 21-31 and column 11, lines 19-26).

In regard to claim 7, Ohnuki discloses that stirrup 1 is a stirrup sliding in the frame 6 crosswise to the direction for coupling the housing and the complementary connector, means for holding the module comprising a cross rail 26 that rests on a shoulder 8a of a rib of module 8 to lock module 8 in frame 6.

In regard to claim 9, Ohnuki discloses that complementary means for preventing a maneuvering of the stirrup 1 are made up of the rib 8a and a frontal edge of the rail 26.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regard to claim 4, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the module and frame have second complementary latching means for holding the module in a set-back position for pre-mounting of the module in the frame; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claim 5, the

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prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the first means for latching module in frame comprise a spring digit borne by the frame and a first stop element borne by the module; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

tdt
4/2/08

/Tho D. Ta/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2833